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Richard A. Vaughan

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EXAMINER

JABR, FADEY S

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/932,263	Applicant(s) VAUGHAN ET AL.	
	Examiner FADEY S. JABR	Art Unit 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 and 27-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 and 27-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/30/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

Claims **1, 27, 42** and **50** have been amended. Claims **1-24** and **27-61** remain pending and are again presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 31 March 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Applicant argues that Borders fails to disclose generating three levels of hierarchical data corresponding to a user's reservation request. However, Examiner asserts Acebo suggests three levels of details. For instance, any detailed information pertaining to the specific travel transaction or sale will be located in a corresponding detail table, subclass table. For example, hotel, car, and miscellaneous detail information is housed in the Hotel, Car and Miscellaneous tables, respectively (C. 12, lines 27-43). Also, Acebo discloses when the host created an IMR and transmits it to the locally operated computer system, the database creates a trip plan, wherein a unique transaction identification number is generated and placed in to TRANS_ID fields of all appropriate tables (C. 12, lines 10-19). Further, Acebo discloses the hotel, the room type, number in room, description of room, status, etc. (Figure 8). Also, the arrival and departure date and time are stored in the air travel database (Figure 9). Acebo further discloses at least two reservation item records. Acebo discloses where the system selects the best itinerary and requests a reservation (Figure 2A-2B).

Further, Borders teaches a publishing subsystem which manages SKU and catalog information and provides an interface to merchants. Further, Borders teaches the order management system polls the pub database for new and updated SKU information and stores the retrieved data into the OMS database. The IMS maintains available to promise, price and inventory information for each SKU. OMS may also capture and/or manage sales and shipment data relating to each SKU. The SKU information may be used by the order fulfillment system to maintain physical inventory and fulfill orders. (C. 7, lines 37-40, C. 10, lines 50-61).

Moreover, Borders teaches each different item or inventory is associated with a respective SKU...A product is a grouping of SKUs. The product information is the higher level information that is pertinent to all SKUs in the grouping. A category is a hierarchical classification based on how customers would expect products to be logically grouped....The SKU information may include SKU attribute values such as, for example, UPCs, vendors, categories, category hierarchy, images, articles, descriptive information, etc (C. 9, lines 25-67). Thus, Borders teaches a generating a hierarchical classification for products requested by a user.

3. Applicant argues that there is no clear articulation, just general allegations of efficiency, as to why one or ordinary skill in the art would modify Acebo to alternatively generate three levels of hierarchical data. Examiner, notes that as described above, Acebo suggests three levels of details, while Borders discloses a hierarchical classification of products. A hierarchical classification of products as taught by Borders does not change nor effect the normal function of generating reservations for customers as taught by Acebo. The providing of reservations to customers would be performed the same way even with the addition of a hierarchical

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classification of products. Since the functionalities of the elements in Acebo and Borders do not interfere with each other the results of the combination would be predictable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims **1, 8-10, 24, 27-28, 36, 42, 45-50** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo et al., U.S. Patent 6,023,679 in view of Borders et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,177,825 B1, hereinafter referred to as Acebo and Borders, respectively.

As per **Claims 1, 8-10, 28, 42 and 50**, Acebo discloses a method for processing reservation requests for one or more inventory items, the method comprising:

- obtaining a user request for reservation of at least inventory item (C. 8, lines 63-67);
- obtaining inventory data corresponding to the one or more inventory items and matching the user request for reservation with the inventory data (C. 4, lines 54-60);
- wherein the reservation transaction records include data associated with one or more reservation requests (C. 5, lines 4-21);
- wherein each reservation items records correspond to the reservation transaction records and identifies a set of inventory items associated with the specific reservation request (C. 5, lines 4-21);

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- wherein each reservation inventory records correspond to the reservation items records and includes data associated with at least two instances of reservation requests for inventory items identified in the reservation items records (C. 5, lines 4-40);
- processing the reservation transaction records, reservation items records, and reservation inventory records (C. 5, lines 4-21);
- transmitting results of the processing transaction records, reservation items records, reservation items records, and reservation inventory records (C. 5, lines 20-21).

Acebo fails to *explicitly* disclose *generating three levels of detail organized in a hierarchical relationship for the user request for reservation defined by a reservation transaction record, one or more reservation items records, and for each reservation items record one or more reservation item records, and for each reservation items record one or more reservation inventory records corresponding to the matching inventory data; wherein the reservation records, item records and inventory records define a first, second and third level of detail in the hierarchical relationship corresponding to the user request for reservation.* However, Acebo discloses storing booked travel itinerary reservation information, including at least two travel transactions, generated by a CRS for subsequent processing in a locally operated computer system. The method includes the steps of accessing the booked travel itinerary reservation information from the CRS, identifying characteristics common (uncommon) to all the travel transactions, storing the common (uncommon) characteristics in a common (detail) table in the locally operated computer system, and linking the detail tables to the common table by a linking field (C. 4, lines 40-50, C. 6, lines 13-29, C. 12, lines 10-43). Further, the Hotel table comprises

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a Hotel_Property ID, a Hotel_Room_Type_CD, and a Room_Override_Info, etc. where the information is linked to the same transaction ID (see Figure 8). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method and system of Acebo and include generating data tables defined by travel data associated by identification records, because it allows a variety of travel data associated with a passenger to be linked within a database to allow for efficient data retrieval.

Furthermore, Borders teaches a well known product identifier (SKU) in an electronic commerce environment. Borders teaches a customer interface where a user is presented with available inventory (C. 4, lines 8-19). Moreover, Borders teaches a Publishing (PUB) Subsystem which manages SKU and catalog information (e.g. SKUs, UPCs, products, categories, descriptive attributes, etc.) and provides an interface to merchants. (C. 7, lines 38-41). Further, Borders teaches a product is a grouping of SKUs. The product information is the higher level information that is pertinent to all SKUs in the grouping. A category is hierarchical classification based on how customers would expect products to be logically grouped (C. 9, lines 20-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method and system of Acebo and organize product information into a hierarchical classification as taught by Borders, because it provides information to customers in an organized manner which they would logically expect to view product information.

Acebo fails to *explicitly* disclose wherein the second level of detail is organized according to date information associated with the reservation items. However, Acebo discloses presenting possible itineraries based on the customer profile (Figure 2). Figure 3 shows an

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itinerary for a flight, car and hotel based on a two-day period. Further, Figure 9 shows arrival and departure date and time. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method and system of Acebo and include organizing information according to date, because it provides the user with it itinerary based on their available date information.

As per **Claims 24, 36 and 45**, Acebo discloses wherein the inventory items are travel-based goods and services and wherein the reservation request is a travel-based reservation request (C. 6, lines 30-40, C. 8, lines 63-67).

As per **Claim 27**, Acebo discloses a system comprising:

- at least one client computer operable to generate a request for reservation of at least one inventory item (C. 8, lines 63-67); and

Acebo fails to *explicitly* disclose *a travel server for storing inventory data corresponding to the one or more inventory items, the travel server operable to obtain the reservation request from the client computer; wherein the travel server generates and processes at least one reservation transaction record, one or more reservation items records, and one or more reservation inventory records corresponding to a new reservation request and the inventory data, wherein the reservation records, item records and inventory records define a first, second and third level of*. However, Acebo discloses software installed on the remote CRS host computer which allows the user to communicate with CRS in order to execute a request for a proposed itinerary, book a reservation for a traveler, and automatically store that information in a travel information (C. 5,

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lines 4-21, C. 8, lines 56-67, C. 12, lines 10-43). Further, the Hotel table comprises a Hotel_Property ID, a Hotel_Room_Type_CD, and a Room_Override_Info, etc. where the information is linked to the same transaction ID (see Figure 8). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Acebo and include a computerized reservation system, because it provides the user with information on the availability of commercial airline flights, ground transportation, and lodging and allows the agent to book reservations from the CRS (C. 1, lines 24-29).

Furthermore, Borders teaches a well known product identifier (SKU) in an electronic commerce environment. Borders teaches a customer interface where a user is presented with available inventory (C. 4, lines 8-19). Moreover, Borders teaches a Publishing (PUB) Subsystem which manages SKU and catalog information (e.g. SKUs, UPCs, products, categories, descriptive attributes, etc.) and provides an interface to merchants. (C. 7, lines 38-41). Further, Borders teaches a product is a grouping of SKUs. The product information is the higher level information that is pertinent to all SKUs in the grouping. A category is hierarchical classification based on how customers would expect products to be logically grouped (C. 9, lines 20-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method and system of Acebo and organize product information into a hierarchical classification as taught by Borders, because it provides information to customers in an organized manner which they would logically expect to view product information.

Furthermore, claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function, *In re Danly*, 263 F.2d 844, 847, 120 USPQ 528, 531

(CCPA 1959). A claim containing a “recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus” if the prior art apparatus teaches all the structural limitations of the claim. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (Bd Pat. App & Inter. 1987). Thus, the structural limitation of claim 27, including a computer is disclosed by Acebo as described above. Also, as described above, the functional limitations in claim 27 do not distinguish the claimed apparatus from the prior art.

As per **Claims 46-49**, Acebo discloses a computer-readable medium wherein at least one reservation inventory component corresponds to a hotel room, an airline seat, cruise ship, and rental car (C. 6, lines 30-40).

6. Claims **2-7, 11-12, 34-35 and 44** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Borders as applied to claims 1, 27 and 42 above, and further in view of Schiff et al., Pub. No. US2002/0082877 A1, hereinafter referred to as Schiff.

As per **Claims 2-3 and 44**, Acebo fails to *explicitly* disclose wherein the user request for reservation includes a set of criteria for identifying matching inventory items. However, Acebo discloses user travel dates, flight cost, seat assignment (Tables 2A-2C). Further, Acebo discloses user-defined tables (see Figure 5, component 56).

Moreover, Schiff teaches returning a subset of reservations that correspond to the customer preferences (reservation dates, destination, etc.) (0010, 0012). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant’s invention to

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modify the method of Acebo and include customer preferences as taught by Schiff, because it provides the user with a subset of reservations that more precisely reflects their reservation request.

As per **Claims 4-7**, Acebo discloses a computer-readable medium wherein at least one reservation inventory component corresponds to a hotel room, an airline seat, cruise ship, and rental car (C. 6, lines 30-40).

As per **Claims 11 and 34-35**, Acebo fails to disclose a method wherein processing the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records includes calculating a consumer price for the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records. However, Schiff teaches providing the user with price information corresponding to their reservation request and user preferences (0015-0016, 0068). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and include providing the user with reservation price information as taught by Schiff, because it provides the user with pertinent information regarding their reservation request.

As per **Claim 12**, Acebo fails to disclose wherein processing the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records includes calculating a supplier cost for the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records. However, Schiff teaches displaying a breakdown of the pricing information for use by the supplier when negotiating a booking price with the customer (0113). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

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one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and include providing the supplier with price information concerning the user's request as taught by Schiff, because it allows the supplier to determine their cost to supply the user and therefore determine a competitive price to charge the user.

7. Claims **13, 29 and 43** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Borders as applied to claims 1, 27 and 42 above, and further in view of Goheen, U.S. Patent No. 6,094,640, hereinafter referred to Goheen.

As per **Claims 13 and 29**, Acebo fails to disclose a method wherein processing the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records includes confirming a completion of a financial transaction corresponding to the reservation request. However, Goheen teaches verifying a payment for the reservation (Col. 5, lines 14-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and provide for a verification of a financial transaction as taught by Goheen because a merchant would want to guarantee payment for their services before providing those services.

As per **Claim 43**, Acebo fails to disclose a computer-readable medium further comprising a price component associated with the reservation transaction component, the one or more reservation items components, and the one or more reservation inventory components, the price component operable to define a price adjustment associated with each component.

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However, Goheen teaches a system where changes to a reservation can be altered and payment for the alteration can be done (Col. 5, lines 14-20; Col. 6, lines 11-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Acebo and provide a computer-readable medium that encompasses a price component within the reservation request as taught by Goheen. Goheen provides motivation by indicating the process would eliminate paper ticketing and speed up the reservation process (Col. 6, lines 16-24).

8. Claims **14-17 and 51** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Borders as applied to claims 1 and 50 above, and further in view of Goheen and Patel, U.S. Patent No. 5,953,706, hereinafter referred to as Patel.

As per **Claims 14-15 and 51**, Acebo discloses wherein processing the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records include:

- placing the inventory data matching the user reservation request on hold (C. 2, lines 1-10);
- updating the inventory data to reflect a completed reservation request (C. 14, lines 8-14)

Acebo fails to disclose updating the reservation transaction, reservation items and reservation inventory records with the confirmation data. However, Patel teaches confirming and updating the status of a reservation (Col. 3, Lines 56-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and

confirm the status of the reservation as taught by Patel, because the it ensures that the status of the available reservations is correct when displaying to potential customers.

Acebo fails to disclose confirming a completion of a financial transaction corresponding to the reservation request. However, Goheen teaches verifying a payment for the reservation (Col. 5, lines 14-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and provide for a verification of a financial transaction as taught by Goheen, because a merchant would want to guarantee payment for their services before providing those services.

As per **Claim 16**, Acebo fails to disclose a method wherein updating the inventory data includes deleting the inventory data from the hold table. However, Patel teaches a method in which the reserved trip is removed from the database once confirmed (Col. 7, lines 46-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and provide for the capability to delete already reserved trips as taught by Patel, because the system would only want to display available reservations to potential customers.

As per **Claim 17**, Acebo fails to disclose a method further comprising deleting the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records and adding the matching inventory data to a corresponding inventory record if the transfer of a monetary amount cannot be confirmed. However, Goheen teaches a method where a reservation will not be reserved if the payment is not authorized (Col. 5, lines 24-26). Therefore, it would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and prohibit a reservation from being completed if the payment is not authorized as taught by Goheen, because the merchant would only want to provide reservations for paying customers.

9. Claims **18-19 and 21-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Borders as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patel.

As per **Claim 18**, Acebo fails to disclose a method wherein transmitting the results of the processing includes transmitting a notification to a supplier corresponding to the process reservation request. However, Patel teaches a method where a reservation confirmation is sent to a service provider (Col. 6, lines 47-51). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and provide a notification confirming the results of a reservation request as taught by Patel, because this would inform the service provider to update their system to include the reserved trip.

As per **Claim 19**, Acebo fails to disclose a method wherein the notification includes a confirmation number. However, Patel teaches a confirmation number that is relayed to the service provider (Col. 6, lines 47-51). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and provide a confirmation number attached to the notification as taught by Patel, because this would allow one to be able to refer to a particular reservation through by way of reference number.

As per **Claim 21**, Acebo fails to disclose a method wherein the notification includes a cost code associated with a supplier cost for the inventory item. However, Patel teaches notifying the service provider of the pricing information for the trip (Col. 7, lines 66-67; Col. 8, lines 1-3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and provide a pricing information for the inventory items as taught by Patel, because it would simplify accounting records for the service providers when updating their systems.

As per **Claim 22**, Acebo fails to disclose a method wherein transmitting the results of the reservation requests includes transmitting a confirmation to a user corresponding to the process reservation request. However, Patel teaches sending the user a confirmation of their request (Col. 1, lines 27-30; Col. 3, lines 56-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and transmit a confirmation notification to the user of the reservation as taught by Patel, because a customer would desire proof that their reservation has been confirmed, which would also provide the user with information regarding their reservation.

As per **Claim 23**, Acebo fails to disclose a method further comprising obtaining a supplier confirmation of the transmitted notification prior to transmitting the confirmation to the user. However, Patel teaches sending a confirmation to a service provider before notifying the user (Col. 1, lines 52-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and transmit a

confirmation to the service provider before transmitting one to the user as taught by Patel, because that would allow for verification of the trip's availability before confirming with the user.

10. Claims **30-33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Borders as applied to claim 27 above, and further in view of in view of Goheen and further in view of Patel.

As per **Claim 30**, Acebo fails to disclose the system further comprising at least one supplier corresponding to the one or more inventory items, wherein the travel server is operable to transmit a notification of the processed reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records to the supplier associated with the process reservation request. However, Patel teaches sending the service provider a confirmation of the reservation request (Col. 1, lines 52-57; Col. 3, lines 56-58; Col. 6, lines 47-51). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Acebo and provide a notification confirming the results of a reservation request as taught by Patel because this would inform the service provider to update their system to include the reserved trip.

As per **Claim 31**, Acebo fails to disclose the system wherein the notification includes one or more cost codes operable to define a supplier cost authorization code for the processed reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records. However, Patel

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teaches sending records and pricing information to the service providers regarding the user reservation (Col. 7, lines 66-67; Col. 8, lines 1-3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Acebo and provide the service provider with cost information concerning pricing as taught by Patel. Patel provides motivation by pointing out the pricing information can be used to generate invoices for the users (Col. 8, lines 10-13).

As per **Claim 32**, Acebo fails to disclose the system wherein the travel server is further operable to transmit a confirmation of the processed reservation request to the user associated with the process reservation request. However, Patel teaches sending a confirmation of the request to the user (Col. 1, lines 27-30; Col. 3, lines 56-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Acebo and provide the user a confirmation of their reservation request as taught by Patel, because that would allow for verification of the trip's availability before confirming with the user.

As per **Claim 33**, Acebo fails to disclose the system wherein the travel server includes a communication component operable to obtain a standard formatted notification to a supplier and to generate and transmit a supplier specified formatted notification. However, Patel teaches sending information and confirmation to a supplier (Col. 1, lines 52-57). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Acebo and provide certain information and confirmation to a service

provider in a specific form as taught by Patel, because it would make it more convenient for the service provider to decipher the vital reservation information.

11. Claim **20** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Borders as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of in view of Patel and further in view of Schiff.

As per **Claim 20**, Acebo fails to disclose wherein the notification includes utilization information. However, Schiff teaches providing information regarding the reservation based on the user's intended use (0108). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and include providing the supplier with intended use preferences as taught by Schiff, because it allows the supplier to provide the user with a proposed itinerary that reflects the users preferences.

12. Claims **37-41 and 56-58 and 60-61** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Borders as applied to claims 27 and 50 above, and further in view of view of Sehr, U.S. Patent No. 6,926,203 B1, hereinafter referred to as Sehr.

As per **Claim 37 and 39**, Acebo fails to disclose a system wherein the travel server is further operable to obtain a reservation cancellation request from the client computer and to process pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records

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in accordance with the reservation cancellation request. However, Sehr teaches a system that allows a user to modify their request (Col. 7, lines 1-15; Col. 15, lines 52-61, Col. 24, lines 29-31). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Acebo and provide the user with the capability to cancel their reservation request as taught by Sehr, because it would be convenient to the user to have flexibility with their reservation.

As per **Claim 38**, Acebo fails to disclose a system wherein the processing of the pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records include updating the inventory data corresponding to the cancelled reservation request. However, Sehr teaches a system in which a user can cancel or modify their reservation and then update the reservation database (Col. 24, lines 29-31; Col. 24, lines 47-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Acebo and provide the capability to update the inventory data regarding the reservation cancellation or modification as taught by Sehr, because the service provider would want to inform other users of the availability of once unavailable reservations.

As per **Claim 40 and 41**, Acebo fails to disclose a system wherein the travel server is further operable to generate additional reservation items records in accordance with the reservation modification request. However, Sehr teaches a system in which the modified information is forwarded and confirmed (Col. 15, lines 52-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the

system of Acebo and provide further records of any additional modifications as taught by Sehr, because the service provider would want to maintain proper record keeping in order to assure the user receives the services requested.

As per **Claim 56**, Acebo discloses the method wherein the reservation action request is a reservation modification request, and wherein processing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records according to the reservation action request includes:

- generating new reservation transaction, reservation items, or reservation inventory records corresponding to a new reservation portion of the modification request (C. 14, lines 8-12);
- placing inventory item information corresponding to the new reservation transaction, reservation items, or reservation inventory records on hold (C. 1, 66-C. 2, line 16);
- placing inventory item information corresponding to the pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records on hold (C. 1, 66-C. 2, line 16);
- updating the pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records (C. 1, 66-C. 2, line 16);

Acebo fails to *explicitly* disclose:

- confirming the completion of a financial transaction corresponding to the cancellation request; and;
- if the financial transaction is confirmed, updating an inventory item store with the inventory item information on hold.

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However, Sehr discloses a reservation modification transaction being forwarded to a database in order to be confirmed and updated (Col. 15, lines 52-61; Col. 21, lines 52-54; Col. 21, lines 52-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and provide for the capability to update reservation transactions and confirm payment for those transactions as taught by Sehr, because updating the reservation verifies that the user will receive the services requested. Also, confirming payment from a user guarantees the merchant will receive payment for the services they provide the user.

As per **Claim 57 and 61**, Acebo fails to disclose a method further comprising updating inventory item utilization information in accordance with the cancellation request. However, Sehr teaches a method where particular specifications of the reservation are updated in the system (Col. 24, lines 29-31; Col. 24, lines 47-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo in order to allow for specific reservation item updates as taught by Sehr. Sehr provides motivation by revealing that the database will be informed in real-time about the status of all tickets the moment they are used for access or admission purposes.

As per **Claim 58**, Acebo discloses a method wherein placing inventory item information on hold includes placing the inventory item information in a hold table (C. 2, lines 1-10).

As per **Claim 60**, Acebo fails to disclose a method further comprising rolling back the pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records if the financial transaction cannot be confirmed. However, Sehr teaches a method in which a reservation is not reserved unless a payment is authorized (Col. 4, lines 60-67; Col. 5, lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo to allow for rejection of a reservation if a payment is not authorized as taught by Sehr, because a merchant would not want to provide a service without payment for those services.

13. Claim **59** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Borders as applied to claim 50 above, and further in view of Sehr and further in view of Patel.

As per **Claim 59**, Acebo fails to disclose a method wherein updating the inventory data includes deleting the inventory data from the hold table. However, Patel teaches a method in which the reserved trip is removed from the database once confirmed (Col. 7, lines 46-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and provide for the capability to delete already reserved trips as taught by Patel, because the system would only want to display available reservations to potential customers.

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14. Claims **52-53 and 55** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo in view of Borders as applied to claim 50 above, and further in view of Patel, and Goheen and further in view of Sehr.

As per **Claim 52**, Acebo fails to disclose a method further comprising updating inventory item utilization information in accordance with the cancellation request. However, Sehr teaches a method where particular specifications of the reservation are updated in the system (Col. 24, lines 29-31; Col. 24, lines 47-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo in order to allow for specific reservation item updates as taught by Sehr. Sehr provides motivation by revealing that the database will be informed in real-time about the status of all tickets the moment they are used for access or admission purposes.

As per **Claim 53**, Acebo discloses a method wherein placing inventory item information on hold includes placing the inventory item information in a hold table (C. 2, lines 1-10).

As per **Claim 54**, Acebo fails to disclose a method wherein updating the inventory data includes deleting the inventory data from the hold table. However, Patel teaches a method in which the reserved trip is removed from the database once confirmed (Col. 7, lines 46-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo and provide for the capability to delete already

reserved trips as taught by Patel, because the system would only want to display available reservations to potential customers.

As per **Claim 55**, Acebo fails to disclose a method further comprising rolling back the pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records if the financial transaction cannot be confirmed. However, Sehr teaches a method in which a reservation is not reserved unless a payment is authorized (Col. 4, lines 60-67; Col. 5, lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Acebo to allow for rejection of a reservation if a payment is not authorized as taught by Sehr, because a merchant would not want to provide a service without payment for those services.

Conclusion

15. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FADEY S. JABR whose telephone number is (571)272-1516. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 8:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fadey S Jabr
Examiner
Art Unit 3628

FSJ

/F. S. J./
Examiner, Art Unit 3628

Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

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(571) 273-1516 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

/JOHN W HAYES/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3628